

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 21 are pending in the application; claim 22 is canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite because there is no proper antecedence for "receptacles" since claim 17 depends from claim 16 and claim 1 but not claim 3 where the receptacles are defined first. Claim 17 has been amended to include the features of claim 3 so that proper antecedence is now provided. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 17 pursuant to 35 USC 112 are therefore respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 1-16 and 18-21 are allowed.

Claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph. Claim 17 now properly provides antecedence for "receptacles" and should thus be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further objections or suggestions, the undersigned would appreciate a phone call or e-mail from the examiner to discuss appropriate amendments to place the application into condition for allowance.

Authorization is herewith given to charge any fees or any shortages in any fees required during prosecution of this application and not paid by other means to Patent and Trademark Office deposit account 50-1199.

Respectfully submitted on November 9, 2005.

Gudrun E. Huckett
Ms. Gudrun E. Huckett, Ph.D.
Patent Agent, Registration No. 35,747
Lönsstr. 53
42289 Wuppertal, GERMANY
Telephone: +49-202-257-0371
Facsimile: +49-202-257-0372
gudrun.draudt@t-online.de

GEH

- 6 -

11/9/05: Amd for Ser. No. 10/709,569 - Inventor(s): Siegfried Fricker - Filing Date: 5/13/2004